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**CAN TRUDEAU
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Transit boss Eddie Robar rides the LRT Thursday.
KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO



TRANSIT IN TRANSITION

Officials know rider experience is the next train they have to catch **metroNEWS**

Court refuses Trump's ban on Muslims

U.S. POLITICS

Threat to take fight to supreme court follows ruling

A federal appeals court refused Thursday to reinstate President Donald Trump's ban on travellers from seven predominantly Muslim nations, unanimously rejecting the administration's claim of presidential authority, questioning its motives and concluding that the order was unlikely to survive legal challenges.

The three judges of the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the argument that the ban targets Muslims raised "serious allegations" and presented "significant constitutional questions," and they agreed that courts could consider statements by Trump and his advisers about wishing to enact such a ban.

Moments after the ruling, Trump tweeted, "SEE YOU IN COURT," adding that "THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION IS AT STAKE!"

In response, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat who leads one of the states that challenged the ban, said: "Mr. President, we just saw you in court, and we beat you."

The panel declined to block a lower-court ruling that suspended the ban and allowed previously barred travellers to enter the U.S.

The judges rejected the administration's argument that courts did not have the authority to review the president's immigration and national security decisions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More on the ruling — and Trump's response
Plus
The tiny Manitoba town that's providing refuge from Trump's America
metroNEWS



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DEVELOPMENT
Land sale raises questions

 **Jeremy Simes**
Metro | Edmonton

The city has released the public side of its proposed deal to sell river valley land so a developer can build an 80-storey tower on it.

The deal, split into a public and private portion to protect the developer's business interests, has several clauses that deal with what might happen if the developer, Alldritt, doesn't stick to the city's wishes.

What's concerning for some is the scenario where Alldritt doesn't build the tower and instead wants to sell the land. If that happens, under the current deal the city may not be able to buy back the land.

"A commercial sale of land to a developer who can resell it to other developers does raise some flags, in terms of what precedent is set for the future of the river valley park," said Candas Jane Dorsey, treasurer of the Boyle Street Community League.

The publicly released deal shows that the city and Alldritt don't appear to agree on the idea of "assignability" — or Alldritt selling the land to another developer.

The city has a restriction on such sales, but there could be legal loopholes that could void such restrictions, the report notes.

The city's deal documents note the tower would bring in \$3.2 million in property taxes annually, as the development would be worth \$250 million.

'More than just a hope'

ADVOCACY

Group looks to faith community for poverty help

 **Alex Boyd**
Metro | Edmonton

Faith communities have a long history of helping their fellow neighbour, and that's why some say pulling them into Edmonton's fight against poverty is a no-brainer.

At EndPovertyEdmonton's launch event Thursday, the collaboration of different communities was front and centre, including in a new action guide for religious groups looking to help.

For Zahra Somani, president of the Ismaili Council for Edmonton, it's a "natural fit."

"I think that faith communities are a natural place where people come together, you don't have to work too hard to have people open up and share their stories with you," she said.

But faith leaders are just one of many groups the new anti-poverty organization is looking to bring into the project.

"Large organizations, small organizations, individuals are getting involved and that's great," said Bishop Jane Alexander, who's been part of the initiative since it started as a Task Force in 2014.

"Poverty is so much more than a lack of money, it's deeper than that and very different. It drove us to have a more holistic approach."



Zahra Somani, president of the Ismaili Council for Edmonton, said getting involved with the city's anti-poverty initiative is a "natural fit." KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

EndPovertyEdmonton has set itself the lofty goal of lifting 10,000 people out of poverty in the next five years.

To that end city council approved \$1.265 million this year and \$1.178 million next year to make progress on 15 priorities that include everything from

Indigenous reconciliation to human rights.

Action is already happening,

Alexander said, pointing to a new anti-poverty school program the United Way is running as an example that has the potential to get at the roots of poverty.

It takes a village, Alexander

said, but looking around the room Thursday, she was optimistic.

"All these people saying this is our bit, we can do this and make a difference," Alexander said.

"Now it's more than just a hope, it's a certainty that we are moving on this."



Poverty is so much more than a lack of money.

Bishop Jane Alexander

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'Designing a system people want'

TRANSPORTATION

User experience key to transit improvements, report states

 **Jeremy Simes**
Metro | Edmonton

As the city looks to transit to curb its car-dependent growth, Edmonton Transit boss Eddie Robar says improvements both big and small are required to get more people riding.

And a new report from Edmonton's Transit System Advisory Board agrees.

The report calls for improvements like partnering with sports agencies to encourage ridership on game nights, creating mobile payment systems and developing a reporting tool that tracks performance.

Robar says it's all about customer service.

"We can't have a million different cars driving around the roads every single day," he said in an interview. "When we look at the changes in the future,



Edmonton Transit boss Eddie Robar is optimistic changes to ETS will get more riders on board. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

it's really designing a system people want."

For instance, Robar noted work will begin on refurbishing 13 transit stations this summer. On top of that, 33 new air-conditioned buses will be added to

the fleet to replace older models.

"It's just little improvements to our passenger environment," he said. "If we're looking to be that mode of choice, how can we make that ride as comfortable and as safe as possible?"

But changes to the current system will go beyond renovations.

City staff will later this year introduce a new route proposal to shift Edmonton to a high-frequency grid from the current hub system.

Robar sees big gains waiting in it.

"Right now the system really relies on good traffic conditions, time transfers and meet points at certain locations, which is difficult to do when a city gets

If we're looking to be that mode of choice, how can we make that ride as comfortable and as safe as possible?

Eddie Robar

larger," he said. "Looking at this ability to revamp the system is something that will be a huge benefit to City of Edmonton and the passengers that ride our service every day."

The future also looks increasingly digital.

Robar said transit's smart-fare project — which would let commuters use a re-loadable card, or credit and debit cards to pay for rides — is expected to make headway in the next couple of months.

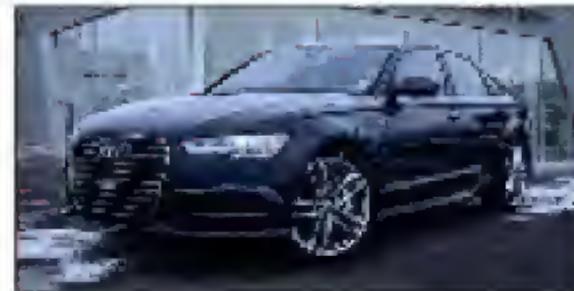
"We're evaluating the RFPs we got responses back for," he said. "We'll have a better timeline after we award the tender for that to begin. But it's a timely process, so it'd be about one year and a half to two years."

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Challenging system for trans youth

METTA CLINIC

Campaign aims to draw attention to long wait list

Elizabeth Cameron
For Metro | Calgary

Ace Peace waited for nine months to get into treatment that saved his life — and he's one of the lucky ones.

"I was terrified every day that he would hurt himself," said Lindsay Peace, Ace's mom.

The now-16-year-old came out as transgender in January 2015 and was put on the waitlist for the Metta Clinic soon after.

Located at the Alberta Children's Hospital, the Metta Clinic is the only place in Alberta where transgender youth aged seven to 20 can receive the complete range of care needed to transition.

"Having a transgender child is not the difficult part. It's navi-



Ace Peace says the Metta Clinic has helped him become confident and comfortable in his skin. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

gating the system that's proved to be really challenging," Lindsay said.

Since its inception in 2014, wait times to access treatment have grown from nine months to more than two years.

"If (these youth) are well into puberty, or are forced to go through non-congruous puberty, they are faced with higher risk for self-harming behaviours, suicide, being a victim of abuse and addiction," said Amelia Newburt, president of the Skipping

Stone Foundation, an advocacy group behind a new social media campaign aiming to draw attention to the clinic's work.

Each Monday in February, the campaign will release a video telling the story of a transgender youth by delving into the challenges they face and examining how the Metta Clinic has changed their life.

Ace was the first person featured in the campaign, and Lindsay will share a parent's perspective in the final video.



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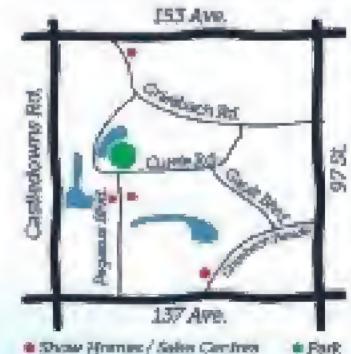
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Canada

Child welfare panel looks at system gaps

MEETING

Questions arise about responsibility in death reviews



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

Calls for more resources and confusion over who has responsibility marked the ministerial panel on child intervention's second meeting Thursday.

The panel, tasked with improving Alberta's child welfare system, went long over its allotted time with questions for morning presenters from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Alberta Health Services and others.

Questions from panel members, including MLAs from all parties, largely focused on untangling just who does what in the death-review process.

"It's a very complex and multidisciplinary group of organizations that are involved in this review," Liberal Leader Dr. David Swann, who also sat on a 2014 child intervention roundtable, told Metro.

"That gives me some confidence that we're getting different perspectives on it. The question is, who is responsible



Liberal Leader Dr. David Swann, who sat on a previous child intervention roundtable, is still looking for clarity on who is responsible for what within the system. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

for amalgamating all of that and making sure that recommendations are then made and followed through on?"

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner said a lack of resources is hampering its ability to complete death reviews on time, with the average review taking five months compared to its three-month target.

But, it said, a recent cash injection and the addition of two medical examiners will help.

Chief Medical Examiner Elizabeth Brooks-Lim said at least seven organizations look at the deaths of children in care.

The Child and Youth Services Council for Quality Assurance

Chair Donna Boulanger also lamented a lack of staff and funding.

Swann also found it worrying.

"If staff don't have the resources and the time per case, and the culture is still the same in which people are afraid to challenge decisions or tell what's really going on — because there's so much anxiety around this whole area — then we have a long way to go," he said.

The panel is expected to provide an outline of recommendations for change in the death-review process in the next six to eight weeks.

GENDER EQUALITY

Campaign workshop to help encourage women to run



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

fidence, and as a result prevents them from running, Cuthbertson said she's now hearing almost as many concerns about social media.

"They've seen examples of women ... being vilified in (social) media," she said.

MLA Sandra Jansen, among others, made headlines last year for the abuse she said she faces online as a woman in power.

But Cuthbertson said she also sees a shift happening.

"We've seen a supportive community start to emerge (online) and start to call out some of that and defend women in the public sphere," she said.

"Now is about when women start to decide (to run), so we're hoping to generate that idea," said the organization's chair, Lana Cuthbertson.

She said the group is also hoping to address concerns.

While fundraising has been identified as an area where women tend to have less con-



Equal Voice Alberta's Lana Cuthbertson. ALEX BOYD/METRO

would like to see a gender balance in council next year.

Equal Voice has set a national goal of having half of political candidates be women, a goal they hope to achieve by encouraging more women to run and helping them prepare.

"We're starting to hear from more women now who are starting to consider it, which is encouraging," Cuthbertson said.

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Fort Mac drama takes the stage

THEATRE

Bust follows two couples as they rebuild their lives

Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

The aftermath of the Fort McMurray wildfire is making its way to an Edmonton stage.

The Theatre Network's latest production, *Bust*, is a dark comedy following two couples that come together three months after the fire to sort out their shaken lives.

"It's dealing with the stresses of the fire, trying to rebuild after being displaced, it's dealing with the downturn of the economy and loss of jobs. It's a worker's voice kind of play," said director Bradley Moss.

"It's an homage to what they're all going through."

The story starts when a referee makes a controversial call at a PeeWee hockey game, sending two couples into turmoil.

One couple has lost its home in the fire, while the other is contemplating divorce.

The play is not based on any specific real-life people, but its players have solid connections to Fort McMurray — and Brandon



Bust director Bradley Moss looks through the burnt theatre doors after the Roxy Theatre fire in January 2015. CONTRIBUTED

In any crisis moment in your life, the truth comes out.

Bradley Moss

Coffey, one of the main actors, hails from the city.

Moss hopes the play draws in a new crowd as a result, and the Theatre Network is offering half-price tickets to anyone who has lived in Fort McMurray.

"It's their story and we want to share it with them," Moss said.

He said laughter can be an

important part of the healing process for people struggling to rebuild, but cautions that everyone in the audience should prepare for a few laughs at their own expense.

"Nobody's not lampooned in this, whether you're from an oil company or you're a worker or you work for Greenpeace. Everybody gets lampooned," Moss said.

"In any crisis moment in your life, the truth comes out. And that's the dynamic of the play."

Bust opened Thursday night and will run Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m., through Feb. 26, at the Roxy on Gateway, 8529 Gateway Blvd.

IN BRIEF

Hancock portrait to adorn walls of legislature

Alberta's 15th premier, Dave Hancock, will be immortalized on the walls of the legislature on Monday. Speaker Robert Wanner's office says Hancock's official portrait will be unveiled in a ceremony in the afternoon. Hancock served in the top job for almost six months in 2014 following the sudden resignation of Alison Redford. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oilers' Ference takes on new role promoting sports

Edmonton Oilers defenceman Andrew Ference is taking on a new role helping Alberta athletes. Ference has been named chairman of Alberta Sport Connection, a provincial agency that promotes sport development from the grassroots to the elite level. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WEEKEND EVENTS

HIT THE ICE, MELT YOUR HEART OR CAMP OUT

Silver Skate Festival

This 10-day, family-oriented river valley festival is rooted in Dutch traditions, the combining winter sports, arts and culture, and recreation. In its 27th year, Silver Skate is Edmonton's longest-running winter festival. Last year, more than 105,000 people joined in on the fun.

When: Friday through Feb. 20, noon to 8 p.m.

Where: Hawrelak Park, 9930 Groat Rd.

Doug Hoyer album release

The Edmonton expat will venture north from Atlanta to bring his charming indie pop tunes back home and celebrate his new album, *Stepping Stone*, with two afternoon sets.

Where: Empress Ale House, 9912 82 Ave.

When: Saturday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Melting Hearts

Latitude 53's pre-Valentine's Day party will warm a winter night with dancing and drinks in the gallery, plus prizes up for grabs, with themes of self love and celebrating relationships of all forms. Attendees are encouraged to bring friends, partners or crushes.

Where: Latitude 53, 10242 106 St.

When: Saturday from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Survival Workshop

Whether you're preparing for the apocalypse or camping, survival instructor Randy Breeuwsmma from Karamat Wilderness Ways will teach techniques for outdoor survival.

Where: Art Gallery of Alberta, 2 Sir Winston Churchill Square

When: Sunday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. KEVIN MAIMANN/METRO

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Refugees brave cold to enter Canada

IMMIGRATION

Farmers welcome migrants from U.S. with meal

People have been walking across the United States border to claim refugee status for years, but a Winnipeg immigration lawyer says he's not used to seeing them cross over in the bitter cold.

When they arrive, says Bashir Khan, they are often thirsty and hungry. For some, the first Canadian they meet is a farmer who welcomes them inside and offers a meal.

"They'll cook up 12 eggs and let a poor, hungry refugee claimant wolf it all down," says Khan. It's the migrant who asks to speak with border officials or

police, he adds. "The refugee claimant is the one begging them to call, not the other way around."

Khan has 17 clients who have braved the weather in recent months to cross into Manitoba as an "irregular arrival." RCMP have said that last weekend 22 people walked from North Dakota into Emerson-Franklin. The majority were put up in a community hall and fed by volunteers.

Officials in Emerson say they've recently seen more border jumpers following planned new restrictions in the United States on refugees.

The Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement requires people to apply for asylum in the first country they arrive. If they have already applied as a refugee in the U.S. before showing up at a border port in Canada, and have no blood relatives

11,000

Refugee claimants processed at designated ports last year, the Canada Border Services Agency says.

here, they are turned away. But if a person crosses into Canada somewhere else and then applies as a refugee, the case is heard in the Canadian system.

The Canada Border Services Agency says 11,000 refugee claimants were processed at designated ports last year. Figures released this week show more than 2,000 claimants entered "irregularly," with growing numbers in Manitoba, Quebec, British Columbia and Yukon.

Khan says he has only ever

had clients walk across the border into Manitoba in warmer months.

"They always come when winter breaks in the spring until late fall.... In the last seven years, I've never seen anyone come in the dead of winter and risk life and limb."

Two men from Ghana were severely frostbitten in December when they crossed the border at Emerson. It speaks to their desperation to get to Canada, says Khan.

Refugee claimants are released after meeting with a border officer for a couple of hours, Khan says. They have 15 days to file a claim and a hearing date is set in three to four months.

During that time, they may connect with friends or family or an immigration agency to find a place to live.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A road sign near Emerson, Man., where refugees have been crossing into Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

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SYRIAN REFUGEES

Woman pressures feds after sponsored family is delayed



Jen
Taplin
For Metro Halifax

Their first meeting should have been a joyous occasion at the airport. Instead it happened in a small one-bedroom apartment in Jordan.

Frustrated at delays and eager to meet the sponsored Syrian refugee family, Stephanie Gillis took matters into her own hands and visited them in Jordan last month.

Gillis and her colleagues at Southwest Properties contributed about \$25,000 to sponsor a family.

They were paired with a family in December 2015 and were told they would arrive



Stephanie Gillis with Baroo Almasalma. CONTRIBUTED

by February 2016. They're still waiting.

So in January, Gillis packed her bags and headed to Israel, hoping to pop over to Jordan to see the family. A connection

through a friend on Facebook helped her navigate the streets and track them down.

The dad, Mouad Almasalma, thought someone was coming to his door to tell him his application was rejected.

"I got out of the car and the look on his face, it was amazing, it was so cool," she said.

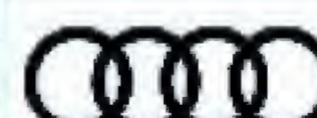
Both Mouad and Maha are university educated and had enough English to communicate easily. The kids Susu, 2, and Baroo, 3, took a little effort to warm up.

Since she returned to Halifax, Gillis has been pestering the government to get on with processing the application.

"I'm optimistic that they'll come; we just don't know when."

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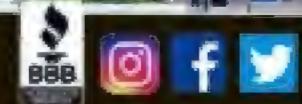


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Trump not keen on court ruling

POLITICS

Government mulling its next steps

President Donald Trump said Thursday's federal appellate court ruling against reinstating his refugee and immigration order was a "political decision" that jeopardized national security.

"We have a situation where the security of our country is at stake and it's a very, very serious situation so we look forward ... to seeing them in court," Trump said. "We're going to win the case."

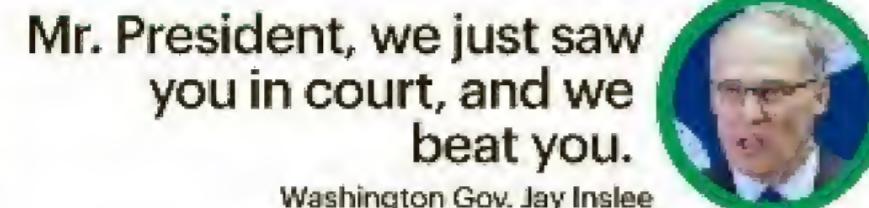
Trump, in a brief, impromptu appearance in the West Wing, did not specify what his administration's next legal steps would be and said he had not yet conferred with Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who was sworn into office earlier Thursday.

The president said he did not believe the decision undercut



SEE YOU IN COURT, THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION IS AT STAKE.

U.S. President Donald Trump



Mr. President, we just saw you in court, and we beat you.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee

his presidency.

In a unanimous decision, the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals declined Thursday to block a lower-court ruling that suspended the executive order preventing travellers from seven Muslim-majority nations from entering the U.S.

The Justice Department said it was "reviewing the decision and considering its options." It could appeal the judge's restraining order to the U.S. Supreme Court or it could attempt to make the case for the travel ban in the

district court.

White House counsellor Kellyanne Conway suggested the next step would be to argue the merits of the executive order.

"The statute provides a president ... with great latitude and authority to protect the citizens and to protect the nation's national security," Conway said. "This was not argued on the merits. Now that we'll have an opportunity to argue on the merits we look forward to doing that. We look forward to prevailing." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Donald and Justin to meet for first time

President Donald Trump will receive Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the White House on Monday — their first official meeting after weeks of back-and-forth about setting a tangible agenda beyond pleasantries and first-encounter photo ops.

Several people familiar with the planning said uncertainty about the date lingered for a reason: the Canadian side wanted specific results, while the American administration is still busy getting its cabinet confirmed.

"The president looks forward to a constructive conversation in strengthening the deep relationship that exists between the United States and Canada," said spokesman Sean Spicer.

The countries discussed various plans for a first encounter. The Canadian side considered different destinations that would allow it to leave a positive first impression of trade with Canada, while avoiding the blast radius of the Manhattanite's project of reducing imports.

Trudeau was asked Thursday about whether he planned to broach some of Trump's more controversial policies. His answer illustrated the fine line Canada



Justin Trudeau. THE CANADIAN PRESS

must now walk as he described what he considers his two primary responsibilities.

"The first is, of course, to highlight Canadian values and principles and the things that we know make our country strong ... we have a set of solutions that work very well, not just for our community and our country, but indeed our world," he said.

"The second responsibility I have ... is creating jobs and opportunity for Canadian citizens through the continued close integration on both sides of the border... I will continue to discuss on a broad range of issues with the American president." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Speculation abounds over Sarah Palin as ambassador

Sarah Palin has been governor of Alaska, candidate for vice-president of the United States and the butt of countless jokes. Now is she about to become the American ambassador to Canada?

On Wednesday, White House press secretary Sean Spicer fuelled speculation that Palin is Ottawa-bound when he declined on Wednesday to comment on whether she is being considered as ambassador to Ottawa.

"With respect to the ambassador, we have no additional ambassador nominations or announcements to make on that front," Spicer told reporters when asked specifically about rumours that Palin was under consideration for the Canadian post. That was enough to cause Twitter to blow up.

"Sarah Palin as ambassador?" New Democrat MP Charlie Angus tweeted. "Well that would show how little Steve Bannon and his pal @realDonaldTrump think of Canada." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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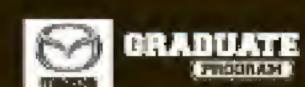
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It's clear now — The already-rich Trumps just want to get richer.

I love shoes. Many times shopping at Hudson's Bay, I've picked up a pair that looked as if it could be something I'd want to wear, if it weren't for some hint of cheapness, the air of a knockoff, the feeling that the shoe was saying to me: "I am exactly your style," but I could sense a lie. Once you got closer, it wasn't quite as elegant. The fabric a tad tacky. The stitching imprecise. In general: less fabulous, more fake. And it was always Ivanka Trump [TM].

It's not until numerous people posted images of bland Ivanka Trump wrap dresses on Facebook this week — supporting Nordstrom's claim that it recently dropped her line of women's wear because it wasn't selling well — that I remembered about the shoes. I realized what a perfect metaphor they were for Ivanka herself: now that we've had a closer look, we can spot the fake.

The full extent to which she's misrepresented the women-friendly policies of her business, argued that her privileged childhood was in fact an obstacle she



Ivanka and Melania Trump speak during the presidential inaugural parade. APP/GTETT IMAGES

overcame in order to become rich, and used her newfound political power to hawk her own products is detailed elsewhere.

But this week, we saw the curtain fall away completely. First, Trump slammed Nordstrom on Twitter. Then Kellyanne Conway, Trump's key advisor, shifted gears from presidential spokesperson to president's daughter's lifestyle brand endorser.

"Go buy Ivanka's stuff," she told the American people on Thursday. "I'm just going to give

a free commercial here: Go buy it today, everybody."

From the beginning, the idea that the Trump family would not try to profit directly from the presidency was as foolish as believing a dog would not try to roll in a pile of s—. But few thought we'd see it expressed so blatantly.

Conway's shopping-channel episode came only days after we learned that Melania Trump was in fact planning on making wads of cash from being first lady, a

role she appeared to want nothing to do with.

Court documents filed by her lawyers as part of a libel suit against the Daily Mail newspaper argue that she's lost out on a "unique, once in a lifetime opportunity" to "launch a broad-based commercial brand in multiple product categories, each of which could have garnered multi-million dollar business relationships for a multi-year term during which Plaintiff is one of the most photographed women in the world." In other words: She planned to use her time as first lady to get rich(er).

What's important about these two latest episodes of the Trump-presidency-complex is the shameless nature of these claims to self-enrichment. While liberals sit around worrying about whether they're being too paranoid about Trump, or not paranoid enough, his wife, daughter, political advisor and he himself have dropped pretences all together.

You can leave your ethics and morals to the birds and the bees, America. They want money.

GLOBAL DIGEST

UNITED STATES Cities hit by biggest snowstorm of the winter

The biggest storm to hit the Northeast U.S. this winter dropped a foot or more of snow along the New York-to-Boston corridor Thursday, turning roads treacherous, grounding flights and giving millions of people weather whiplash a day after temperatures soared into the 10s.

Scores of accidents were reported as drivers confronted blowing snow and slick highways. Schools closed in cities big and small, including New York City, Philadelphia and Boston, and government offices told non-essential workers to stay home.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NETHERLANDS Prosecutors seek 11 years for alleged cyberbully also charged in Canada

Dutch prosecutors on Thursday sought the maximum possible sentence — nearly 11 years — for a man charged with cyberbullying dozens of young girls and gay men and who is also accused in Canada of sexually extorting Amanda Todd, a 15-year-old girl who later killed herself. Prosecutor Annet Kramer urged judges at a court in Amsterdam to sentence the suspect,

identified only as Aydin C., to 10 years and eight months in prison, saying he subjected some of his victims to years of emotional abuse.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO Monarch butterfly numbers drop 27 per cent

The number of monarch butterflies wintering in Mexico dropped by 27 per cent this year, reversing last year's recovery from historically low numbers, according to a study by government and independent experts

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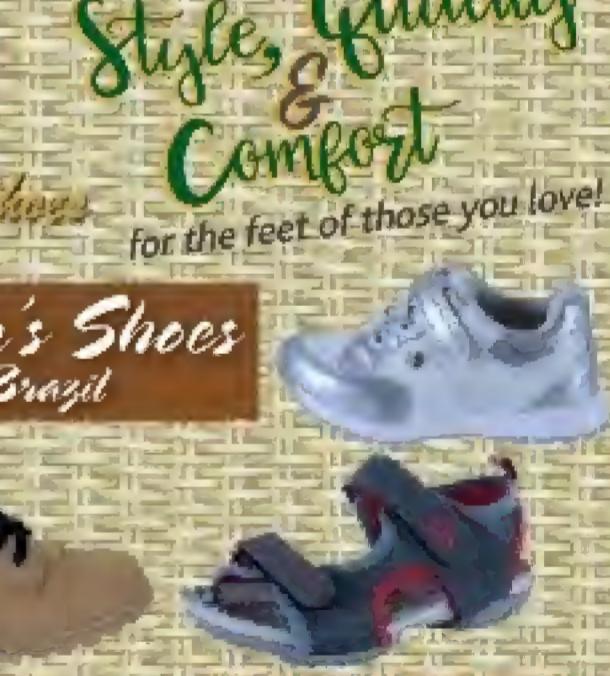
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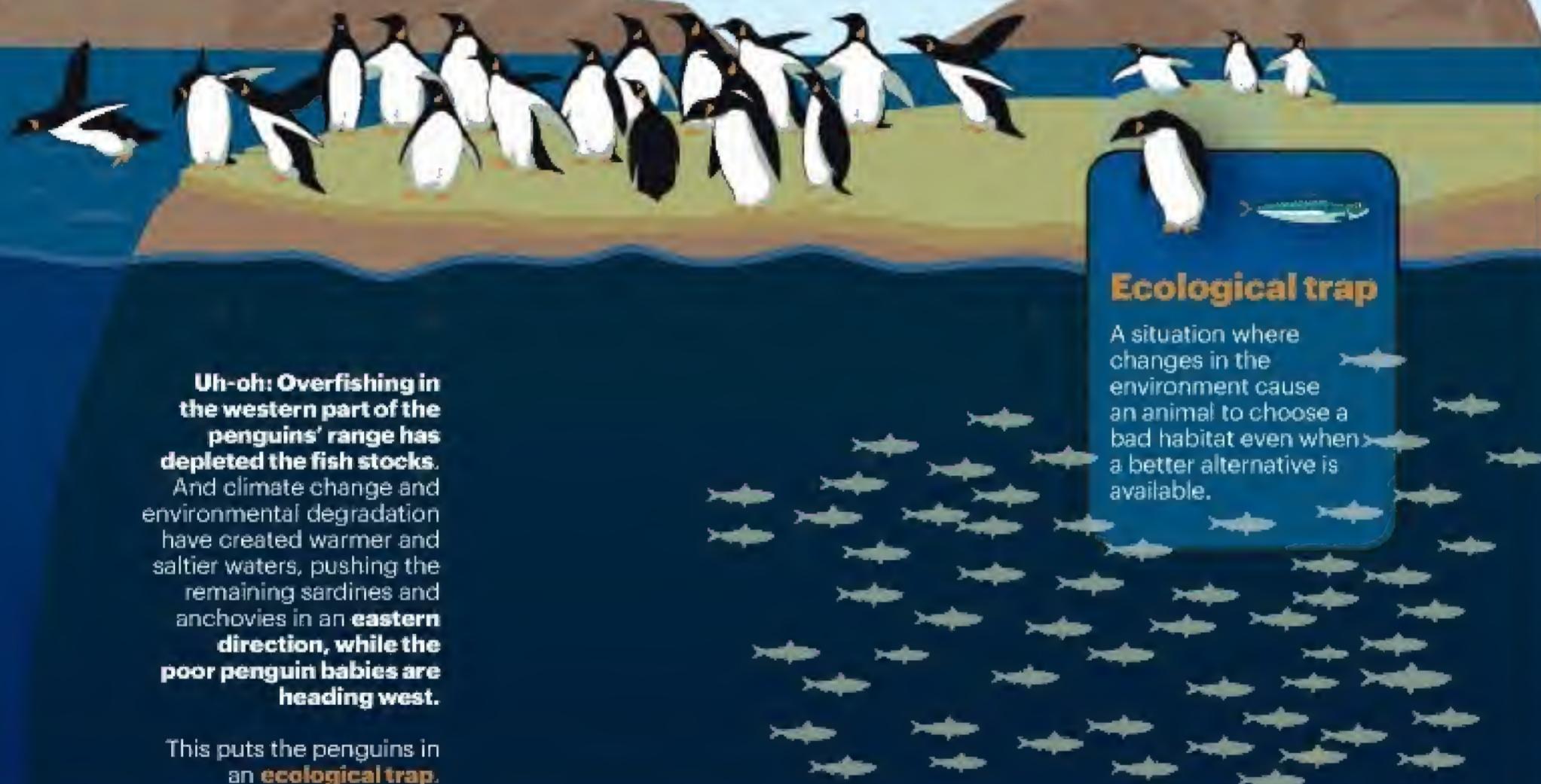
From the Department of Duh: Traffic deaths are declining because people are driving less, a new study says

DECODED by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

DEATH MARCH OF THE PENGUINS

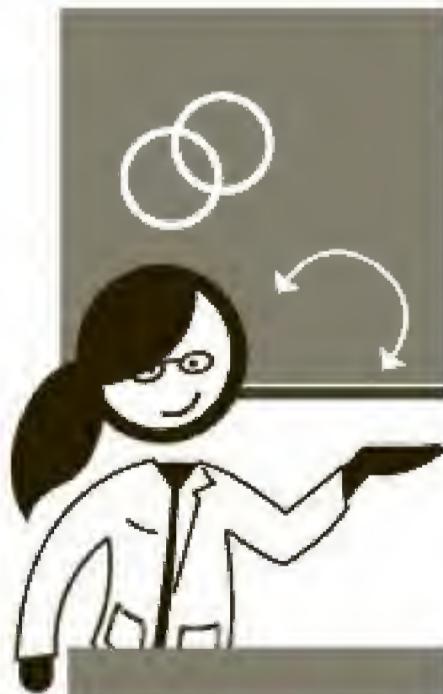
Baby African penguins are in serious trouble. They're toddling off into the sunset looking for food, but heading in the wrong direction. Humans have messed up their habitat, so their favourite snack, sardines, isn't where it's supposed to be. The breeding population in the hardest-hit areas is about half of what it should be. **They're stuck in a trap. Here's why.**

The study: An international team of researchers attached satellite tracking devices to baby **African penguins**, an endangered species found only along the coasts of South Africa and Namibia. They found the penguins swam and waddled thousands of square kilometres to search for food, mostly in a western direction. The penguins were looking for cues — areas of low sea surface temperature and high chlorophyll — that normally indicate an abundance of their favourite prey, sardines.



CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

A special message for Research Christmas



Merry Research Christmas! The first 2016 census numbers are out! This is bigger than regular Christmas. Experts have been pining for comprehensive data about the Canadian population since the mandatory long-form census was scrapped in 2010. God bless eggheads everywhere!

I know there's a feeling in the air right now that you can't rely on stats or polls, only your own two eyes. But you can rely on Statscan. It's independent. The data were collected with accepted, transparent methods and re-

viewed by qualified works. If there's a problem, it will be corrected. The same can be said for stats in reputable scientific journals. But it can't be said for much of what passes for "statistics."

Nobody uses scientific methods to collect statistics about issues of no scientific interest. Here's an example stat: The average woman has 20 pairs of shoes in her closet. It *sounds* true. But who would fund a study on that? No one, I think. I found the number in a Daily Mail article, but it's originally from an online sur-

vey (not a peer-reviewed study) by a random British couponing website, VoucherCodesPro.co.uk.

Even some often-repeated statistics of supreme public interest are untraceable. Case in point: survivors of domestic violence leave their abusive partners an average of seven times before staying away for good.

The statistic is often attributed to the National Domestic Violence Hotline. But on their site, they link to a CNN article that quotes an expert saying it. No study, though. I found one

graduate students' paper that repeated the stat, citing a 2005 Body Shop press release. The press release didn't cite a source.

Questioning the stat isn't doubting that domestic violence is a devastating problem. Maybe the number is even higher. (If you know the real number, get in touch!). Meanwhile, my Research New Year's resolution is not to repeat, cite, share or rely on stats from dubious sources.

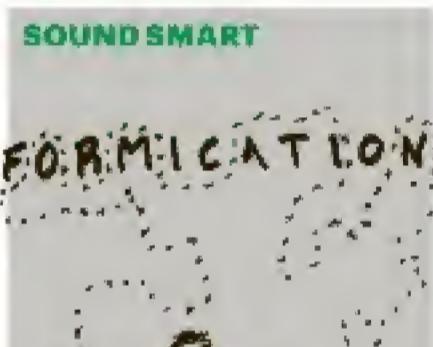
Science Question?
genna.buck@metronews.ca

FINDINGS
Your week in science



SHIFTING FERTILITY
FACTS jobs with a lot of manual labour or anti-social hours such as night shifts may negatively affect women's fertility, a new study says. Women doing these types of work tend to have fewer eggs and fewer mature eggs.

BATTERY UP Imagine: A battery that lasts ten years, storing solar energy in your basement and discharging it to heat your home. And if it bursts? No prob, the solution inside is water-based. Harvard scientists unveiled just such a prototype this week.



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PHILOSOPHERCAT by Jason Logan

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Keanu cashing in on charisma

IN FOCUS

Unpredictable Reeves returns as John Wick to confound again

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



This weekend one of the most multipurpose and enduring movie stars of the past thirty years returns to the screen. Kevin Spacey? No.

Daniel Day-Lewis? Na'ah. Gary Oldman? Nyet. It's Keanu Reeves.

Wait! Isn't he the guy critics love to hate? That Reelviews said was, "an actor of exceptionally limited scope" just as the Daily Mail called his performance in Constantine an "impersonation of a sleep-walking plank"?

Yes, one in the same. He's The Matrix's Neo, the Ted of Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure and Point Break's Johnny Utah.

This weekend he's the title character in John Wick: Chapter 2, a down-and-dirty noir and follow up to the original 2014 hit.

The actor's latest incarnation represents another re-

invention in a career spent keeping audiences guessing. He's gone on existential journeys, wooed Diane Keaton and played a peaceful extraterrestrial ambassador but Wicks is something else again.

The Wick movies are set in an alternative world of assassins where hit men and women are paid in special coins, stay in exclusive hotels — with killer views no doubt — and speak in a strangely formal way.

They see themselves as professionals with a civilized code of conduct... except that there is nothing civilized about the work they do. In the first film Wick was an assassin so tough he didn't bother to take off his gore-soaked shirt when beginning his bloody quest for vengeance.

John Wick, the movies and the character are blunt, über macho instruments, brought to life by Reeves in a performance that cripples the argument Today.com made that he is simply a "reciter of dialogue." First of all there is very little dialogue.

The opening fifteen minutes of the first film is essentially a silent movie kept interesting by Reeves's action hero charisma.

Unlike Meryl Streep he can't do accents and he doesn't have the range of some of his former co-stars like Oldman but what he does have is presence.

At his best Keanu understands how to be on screen. Author Bret Easton Ellis said that Reeves "is always hypnotic to watch," and what is a movie star if not someone you can't take your eyes off?

The Wick movies cap a busy and unpredictable time for the actor. After Speed and The Matrix he could have stuck to action films and made a career running jumping and kicking people. Instead he diversified, jumping from romances like Sweet November to crime dramas like The Watcher to The Replacements, a sports comedy.

From studio movies to indies he is unpredictable in his choices, defying expectations. Take his erotic horror thriller Knock Knock for instance. He plays a man held captive in his own home by three female home invaders. It's not a remarkable movie — I called it "deeply unpleasant" in my review — but what makes it interesting is Keanu's character's complete inability to protect himself. Most A-listers wouldn't allow themselves to be portrayed as such easy prey but Keanu relishes the chance to upset our view of him.

For sure Reeves has made some bad movies and even been bad in some movies but that sometimes happens when actors don't play by the rules.



Keanu Reeves returns as the title character in John Wick: Chapter 2. GETTY IMAGES

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Fifty Shades Darker ★
The Lego Batman Movie ★★★
John Wick: Chapter 2 ★★★★
Paterson ★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
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Light, lust and a shady sequel

A little bit more about four movies that are being released this weekend

1 Paterson (Starring Adam Driver, Golshifteh Farahani and Barry Shabaka Henley; Directed by Jim Jarmusch; 118 minutes; 14A)

Who'd have guessed that the road to Nirvana, that state of perfect bliss, passes through the aging, industrial town of Paterson, N.J.? Master minimalist Jim Jarmusch susses it, directing his new film, *Paterson*, with an exquisite slowness. He presents the magical properties of the city, its people through the beatific eyes of a bus driver and mobile poet, played by Adam Driver and coincidentally also named Paterson. Paterson lives a blessedly contented life with his Iranian-American wife, Laura (Farahani, a revelation), and their scene-stealing English bulldog, Marvin. Despite being yin and yang, they are sweetly in love and full of purpose.

Jarmusch finds inspiration in the mundane. *Paterson* is a funny movie, although the humour is not of the laugh-out-loud variety. It's also a gorgeous film, much of it shot by cinematographer Frederick Elmes apparently during the "magic hour" of golden light just after sunrise and just before sunset. In this light, the ordinary becomes ecstatic.

2 Kiss And Cry (Starring Sarah Fisher, Luke Bilyk; Directed by Sean Cisterna; 91 minutes; PG)

It's hard to bad-mouth a film about such a poignant subject, the true story of a

talented young woman's brave battle with a rare form of cancer. But the script by Willem Wennekers is so relentlessly laden with upbeat dialogue that it's hard to discern the real person facing such a stark diagnosis. Without nuance, it's not a challenging or rewarding film.

3 Fifty Shades Darker (Starring Dakota Johnson, Jamie Dornan, Marcia Gay Harden, Kim Basinger; Directed by James Foley; 118 minutes; 18A)

"I'm gonna need a road map," Dakota Johnson's Anastasia Steele says near the start of *Fifty Shades Darker*, as she reacquaints herself with kinky billionaire Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan). Sorry, Ana, but something more jolting is required, like maybe an electric cattle prod — anything to get a current flowing between these two so-called lovers. The curiosity factor of bringing E.L. James' mommy porn spillage *Fifty Shades of Grey* to the screen is entirely lost with this dismal sequel, which new director James Foley helms with all the flair of a convenience store security video.

Limply picking up from Sam Taylor-Johnson's 2015 franchise debut, the screenplay by Niall Leonard robs Dornan's S&M-obsessed Grey of whatever mild sense of menace he possessed. The first film, now seeming so much better in hindsight, had more kinks and even a

few laughs. What few yucks there are in *Fifty Shades Darker* are due mainly to the risible dialogue.

4 Below Her Mouth (Starring Erika Linder and Natalie Krill; Directed by April Mullen; 91 minutes; R)

The sex is hot but the story is only lukewarm as two women fall down a sensual rabbit hole during an intense weekend encounter in boundary-pushing *Below Her Mouth*. The camera is rightly captivated with model Erika Linder as roofer Dallas,

but her lack of acting experience shows. At a bar, she comes on to fashion editor Jasmine (Natalie Krill), who is engaged (to a man), but is rebuffed. Jasmine has reason to be curious and Dallas pursues her until she relents. Kudos to the all-female

crew, especially director April Mullen, for making a film about women exploring lust on their own terms. The trouble comes with the script as newcomer writer Stephanie Fabrizi struggles with hollow dialogue and flimsy story development.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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From the bookshelf to the box office

TRENDS

Hollywood turns a page to the 'golden age' of adaptations

Steve Gow

For Metro Canada

One of Wired Magazine's pop-culture experts Angela Watercutter recently stated that we're "arguably in the midst of the golden age of book adaptations."

Almost undeniably, she would seem to be right.

With the Academy Awards quickly approaching on Feb. 26, it's worth noting that over half of the Best Picture nominees were adapted from literature.

And it won't end at the Oscars. Not by a long shot.

This year is flush with dozens of forthcoming features ripped from the pages of pulp — so much so that it appears Hollywood studios are relying more and more on proven successes in literature as its box-office bedrock.

This weekend's releases are spearheaded by the big screen version of *Fifty Shades Darker*, the second installment in the record-breaking E.L. James trilogy that sold over 100 million books worldwide.

From erotically charged romantic dramas to tender young adult fiction and even classical fairy tales, there is a hearty list of published work currently being produced in Tinseltown and ready to hit our screens in the very near future.

To commemorate, we have rounded up just a handful of sizzling hot book-to-film adaptations that should be on your radar to help warm you through the rest of this cold winter.



Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson return for *Fifty Shades Darker*, the second screen adaptation of a trilogy that sold over 100 million books. CONTRIBUTED

Fifty Shades Darker



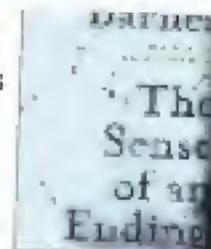
Although the first cinematic version of E.L. James's erotic trilogy was dogged by bad reviews, this sequel still has fans frantic to see Dakota Johnson back as Anastasia Steele, the young woman who plunges into sexual mischievousness with a BDSM-obsessed businessman. Like the reluctant protagonist, the series seems to secretly desire being spanked by the critics even as it draws crowds.
Out Feb. 10

A Man Called Ove



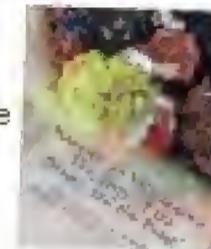
Sweden's biggest book export since *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, this Fredrik Backman bestseller about a grouchy old widower who reluctantly befriends the family next door after they run over his mailbox has certainly proven adept as an adaptation — it's become the Nordic nation's third biggest local feature and is also up for a Best Foreign-Language Film Oscar at this year's awards.
Out Feb. 17

The Sense of an Ending



Julian Barnes's novel about the fallibility of memory has attracted two of the world's top acting legends (Oscar-winner Jim Broadbent of *Iris*, Bridget Jones's Diary; and Charlotte Rampling of TV's *Dexter*, *Swimming Pool*) and with good reason: The acclaimed story of a man confronted by his past after he is willed a diary won the esteemed Man Booker Prize in 2011.
Out March 17

Beauty and the Beast



While Disney turned this tale iconic with an animated blockbuster in 1991, the original source material was Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve's 18th Century fairytale about a young girl imprisoned in the castle of a hideous monster. Now Disney revives the classic romance with a star-studded live-action adaptation that features Emma Watson as the beautiful Belle who bewitches the Beast.
Out March 17

The Zookeeper's Wife



With this hit 2007 bestseller from Diane Ackerman, Kiwi filmmaker Niki Caro returned to the familiar female narrative that launched her career in 2002 with international hit *Whale Rider*. Based on the diaries of Antonina Żabiński, this incredible wartime story recounts how Żabiński and her zoologist husband rescued over 300 Jews during the invasion of Poland by hiding them in animal cages.
Out March 31

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Cera on voicing a comedic sidekick

INTERVIEW

Canadian actor lends his vocals to a much more earnest Robin

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

You can take the boy out of Canada but you can't take Canada out of the boy. When I meet with Brampton, Ont.-born Michael Cera to chat about his new project, *The Lego Batman Movie*, he's having lunch, eating a Waldorf salad.

The 28-year-old began his career in Canada with a Tim Hortons summer camp commercial before decamping to the United States, finding fame with *Arrested Development* and a string of successful movies like *Superbad* and *Juno*, but has retained his disarming Canadian politeness.

I walk in, he jumps up, "Do you want anything? Cheese? A coffee?



How are you doing?"

Declining the snacks and coffee I ask him about the two-year process of recording vocal tracks to play half of the Dynamic Duo, Batman's ward Dick Grayson, a.k.a. Robin.

"You are only focussed on your voice," he says on the difference between live action and animation. "That gives you a certain amount of freedom to experiment in ways that you wouldn't normally. And there's nobody around. All self-consciousness that exists on a set where there is all this infrastructure put in place to set the camera up and point it at you and then you have to deliver. All that pressure is not there when you're in the studio. They just press record. They're not even recording

**Do you want anything?
Cheese? A coffee?
How are you doing?**

Michael Cera, proving Canadian politeness is a lasting trait

on tape, it's digital. You just go and experiment and fail as many times as you want."

"As far as improvisation goes, it was very loose on this. The script is good and he jokes at work and everything ... you feel encouraged and take chances."

The Lego Batman Movie is part parody, part homage to the Batman origin story. When we meet Batman, played by Cera's former *Arrested Development* co-star Will Arnett, he may have outlived his usefulness as Gotham's main do-gooder. What does a Caped Crusader do when the city no longer needs a vigilante crime fighter? Alfred Pennyworth, the superhero's loyal butler and legal guardian suggests, "It's time to face your greatest fear,

being part of a family again." Enter Dick Grayson.

"There's a great foundation there," Cera says about Batman's backstory. "I think the reason Batman keeps getting rehashed is because it is a great story with this character and the world him. There is a lot to of in that."

It sounds heavy, but this isn't Christopher Nolan's long dark night of the superhero soul. "The best thing I can say about the tone is that it is a little like Chuck Jones," Cera says. "Joke. Joke. Joke. It has that

kind of rhythm."

Cera's willingness to be irreverent with the Batman mythology isn't a lapse of manners — he is Canadian after all — it's because, "I'm not an overly enthusiastic Batman fan. I didn't grow up with the comics. Comics just didn't land with me. I was really into cartoons and Nintendo. That was where my head was at. I loved watching the Batman movies but I don't live and breathe it for some reason."

Gossip DIGEST

MUSIC

Beyoncé's being sued
The estate of a late New Orleans YouTube star has filed a \$20 million copyright infringement lawsuit against Beyoncé over the use of his voice in her song *Formation*.

The estate of Anthony Barre, who went by the name Messy Mya on YouTube, claims that Barre's voice is featured in the introduction to *Formation*. The complaint alleges Barre's estate has received no payment or acknowledgment. Barre was fatally shot in 2010.

In addition to Beyoncé, the suit names several songwriters, the video's director and companies owned by Warner Music Group.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOVIES

Hepburn son sued

Audrey Hepburn's eldest son, Sean Ferrer, is being sued by a charity he helped establish, The Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund, to continue the late actress' support of children's causes.

They sued Ferrer on Wednesday in Los Angeles, alleging he has interfered with the charity's plans to exhibit several of the Oscar winner's high fashion dresses and other memorabilia. The exhibitions raise money for the charity, which supports two children's centres.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anthony's animal talk

TELEVISION

Anderson to host own talk show on the Animal Planet

An ancient show-biz adage warns actors about working with children and animals. Anthony Anderson, the patriarch on ABC's family comedy *black-ish*, breaks the second rule Friday with the premiere of a talk show on Animal Planet.

Animal Nation features Anderson narrating funny animal videos, talking to celebrities about their pets and being the foil when handlers Dave Salmoni and Jackson Galaxy bring on some exotic creatures. Viewers were given a taste of the show after last weekend's Puppy Bowl before it settles into its regular time slot Fridays at 10 p.m. Eastern.

Animal lover Anderson has two dogs at home, a shih tzu and a cockapoo.

"I've always been fascinated by them," he said. "I'd watch shows like *Johnny Carson* and *David Letterman* when they had animals and thought, 'This sounds like fun.'"

He calls *Animal Nation* a combination of the *Tonight Show* and *Wild Animal Kingdom*.

Among the first celebrity guests are George Lopez, Bellamy Young and Dermot Mulroney. His guests



Anthony Anderson. AP PHOTO

are encouraged to bring their pets.

He's already taped segments being attacked by a German Shepherd while wearing a protective suit and carefully handling a poisonous snake. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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INTERVIEW

Vancouver novelist shines a softer light on polyamory

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



Kathryn and Chris love each other deeply. They've been inseparable for nine years; they're the kind of couple where, if they were celebrities, they'd have a portmanteau nickname like Katris or Chris-

lyn. And yet, Chris can't stop thinking about Emily, a woman he met at the laundromat.

It's not a "heart crush" or a "boner crush," but an emotion he feels on a molecular level, like "his DNA had been re-sequenced."

If their story was a Hollywood plot, the situation would turn into a messy love triangle or sordid affair. But that's not the case for the protagonists in Vancouver author Zoey Leigh Peterson's debut novel, *Next Year, for Sure*.

Here, Kathryn gives Chris permission to explore his feelings for the other woman, and even becomes enmeshed in Emily's life herself. The novel

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Sex is not always the driver...they're lonely, they want stimulation and a sense of belonging

Zoey Leigh Peterson,
author *Next Year, for Sure*

follows the characters over a year, alternating between Kathryn and Chris's perspectives and their evolving relationship and inner emotions, as they change from being a socially isolated couple to participants in Emily's larger free-spirited community.

"It's good for there to be some non-traditional romance to throw people a curveball," says Peterson. "There seems to be this one way to experience love, but that's not the way I

experience it. I don't just mean monogamy. I mean the way love is packaged in romantic comedies and the candy aisle this time of year, and how it's sold to you."

Before writing *Next Year, for Sure*, Peterson had assumed there were more stories out in the world about polyamory (consensual non-monogamous relationships), but couldn't find what she was looking for, and so she wrote her own. She was driven by her observation that

in popular media and in many novels, there is a lingering preoccupation with characters behaving recklessly toward their loved ones, like *The Sopranos'* Tony Soprano. Peterson wanted to write something different, and also challenge the idea that one party will always suffer in an open relationship.

"There are all these characters out there who just grab what they want and hurt other people in the process," she says.

"But what I see in my real

life and my circle of friends are people who care very deeply for their loved ones and are trying to make their loved ones happy, and are trying to care for their feelings, but they're also human beings who have needs."

Another cliché about polyamory is that it's driven by sex. But in *Next Year, for Sure*, sex doesn't even enter Chris and Emily's world until much later in their story, almost as an afterthought. Peterson purposely didn't want the book to be focused on the physical part of their relationship.

"Sex is not always the driver," she says.

"With Kathryn and Chris in particular, it's not what drives them to make this choice. It's incidental. I think emotional intimacy is what really connects them."

"They're lonely — they want the stimulation and connection and the sense of belonging you get from being in an intimate relationship. That's what they really crave."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

They asked me about BIM at the interview...

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Gadgets that bring you closer together

DIGITAL

**It's 2017, so
woo them
with a tech
toy this year**

Marc Saltzman

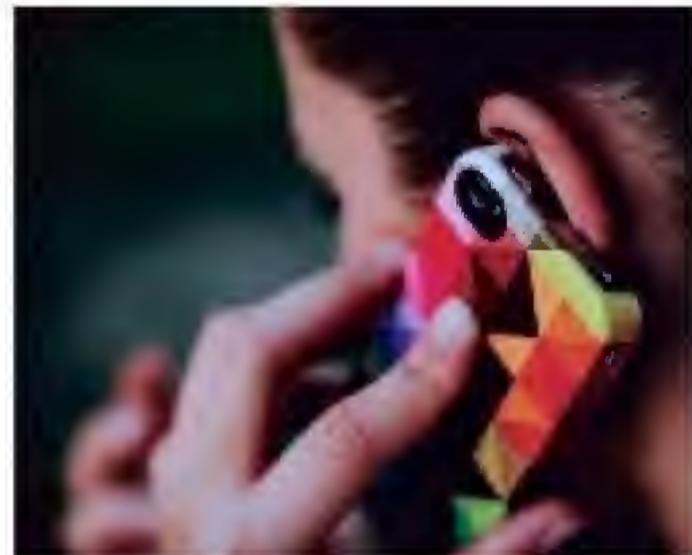
Does your love life need a bit of a boost? While it might be the last thing you had in mind, the latest tech might just be what the (love) doctor ordered.

In fact, the right gadgets may just add some techcitemment to your relationship, to help rekindle the flame between you and your partner.

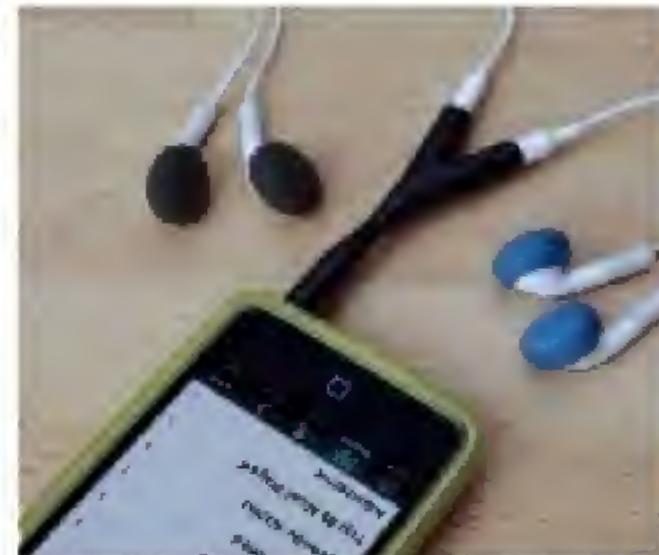
Before you pooh-pooh the proposition, consider the following examples of how a techy gift might do the trick this Valentine's Day.



SONY ALPHA A5000 CAMERA



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BELKIN HEADPHONE SPLITTER

Headphone splitter

Consider it a romantic way to split up: the Belkin Headphone Splitter (\$26, Amazon.ca) lets two users listen to the same songs at the same time.

Simply plug this black or white splitter into your phone, tablet or laptop — perhaps while lying together on the couch or beach or while taking a stroll around the neighbourhood — and then two sets of headphones or earbuds can be inserted into the twin

3.5mm headphone jacks.**Heated foot spa**

It's the next best thing to a visit at the spa — and you don't have to leave your home. As the name suggests, Homedics' Bubble Spa Pro Footbath with Heat Boost Power (\$99.99, Bed Bath & Beyond) gives your significant other a warm, massaging bath for her tired feet.

The clever toe-touch control means he can keep his hands in his robe pocket, while sitting back and enjoying being pampered.

A built-in carry handle lets her easily transport it around the home before and after her few moments of heavenly, bubbly bliss. Heck, why not buy two and be spoiled at the same time, side by side, while sipping some vino?

Stellar camera

Give the gift of captured memories with a premium camera — but without the premium price.

The Sony Alpha A5000 mirrorless camera with E PZ

16-50mm zoom lens (\$529.99, Best Buy) delivers dSLR quality in a compact form factor, plus this 20.1-megapixel camera features integrated Wi-Fi connectivity to instantly share your images with the world, via a nearby smartphone.

Decorative skins, cases

Decorate your better half's

smartphone, tablet, e-reader or laptop with hundreds of different designs to personalize their gear. Gelaskins (from \$16, gelaskins.com) are high-quality skins that affix to your favourite digital devices, to give them some unique flare.

You can also download free, matching wallpaper to display behind the icons. There are

also fitted Gelaskins smartphone cases (from \$20, gelaskins.com).

A percentage of each sale goes to the artist, plus you can upload your own design to create a custom, one-of-a-kind skin, such as a family photo, a couples' portrait, or while not romantic, a favourite sports team's logo.



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THIS SPECIAL REPORT WAS CREATED BY CONTENT SOLUTIONS, INDEPENDENT OF METRO EDITORIAL.



Eco-tours on the Island of Enchantment

For those seeking more than your typical sand and surf getaway, Puerto Rico provides adventure. Yes, it has beautiful beaches and that golden Caribbean sunshine, but treks through lush rainforests and bioluminescence tours will take your usual island vacation up a notch. KAREN KWAN/FOR METRO

Scale to new heights

Get your feet wet, literally. For an immersive experience, hook up with Ecoquest Adventures and leave your favourite kicks in your hotel room, because this is no walk in the (rainforest) park.

At times you'll be more than knee deep in the Turabo River as you make your way up a mountain in the Carite state forest. And the descent is no letdown: it's one exhilarating rappel — with safety harness on, of course — down a waterfall, immediately followed by five ziplines that bring you back to the base.

There you're welcomed back with a comforting home-



cooked lunch prepared by the Figueroa family, who've resi-

ed here since before the forest became a reserve.

Nighttime adventure

A quiet paddle on a kayak through a mangrove in inky black darkness, cocooned by branches overhead. This start to the bioluminescent bay tour is enough to make you feel at one with nature. Soon enough, you enter Laguna Grande, and here is where — with a sweep of your hand into the warm water — you're rewarded with sparkles of light. This magical fairy dust, it's thanks to the heavy concentration of plankton in the bay, and this bay in Puerto Rico's Fajardo region is one of the rare places in the world you can have this enlightening experience.

Tip: For the best views, aim to book your excursion on a night without moonlight and avoid going out after a heavy rainfall as both impact how much of a glittery glow you can see.



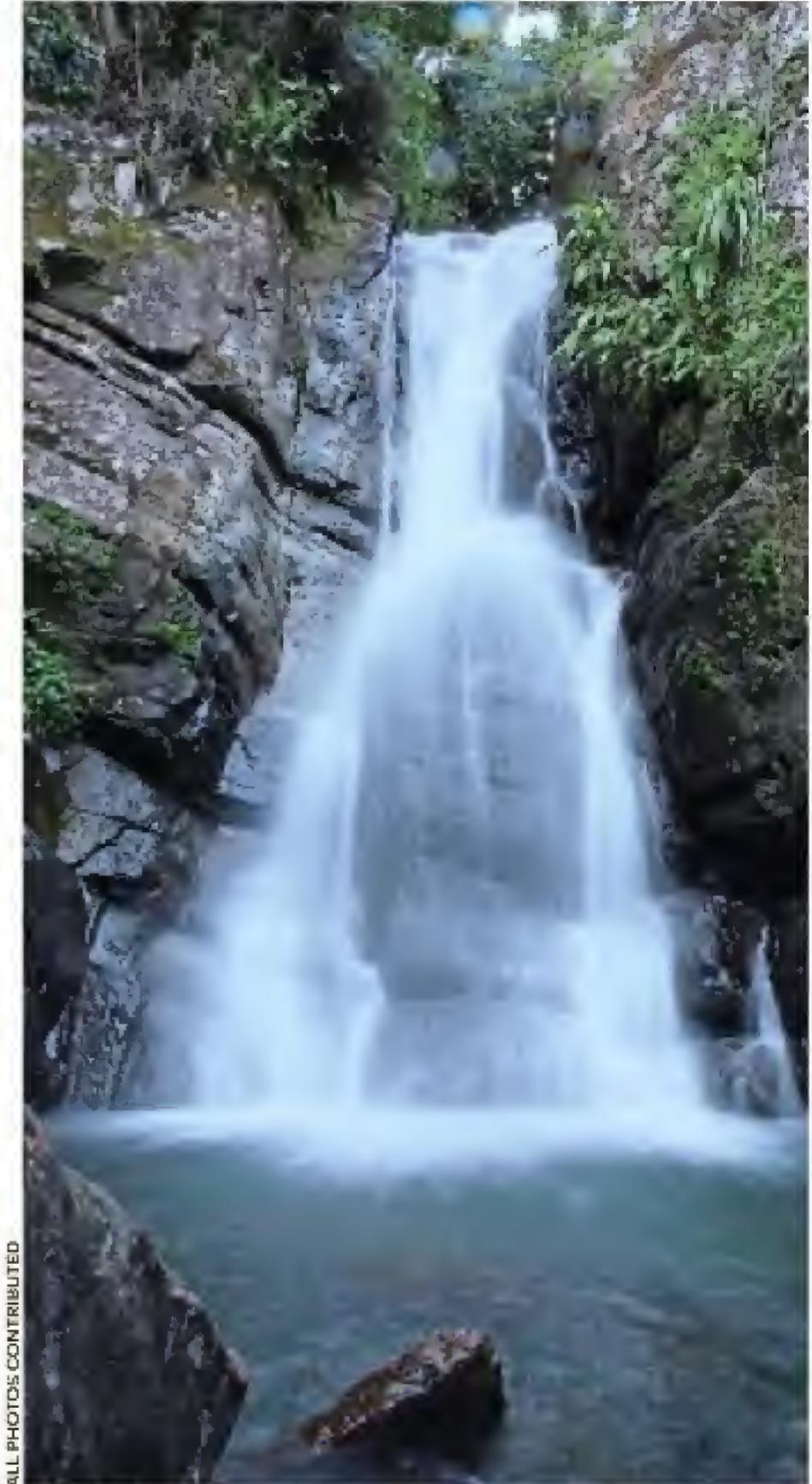
Explore a neighbouring island

For a crystal clear water and virtually untouched beaches, book a boat tour to take you to Culebra or Culebrita.

Tip: If you're motion sickness-prone, take your meds beforehand as strong waves will rock the boat along the way.

For a change from the beach scene, get your tropical rainforest fix at El Yunque, one of the oldest reserves in the Western Hemisphere, dating back to 1876. Its name is derived from the word yuquiye, which stands for white lands, given the forest of clouds just above the peaks. More than 1.5 million people visit this lush rainforest annually so you'll be rubbing elbows with plenty of fellow turistas.

The company is worth it for the chance to take in 240 native tree species (but thankfully no dangerous animals, snakes or insects), climb the 98 steps up Yohahu Tower to an elevation of 1,575 feet for the view and get a refreshing cooldown from the mist of Juan Diego waterfall.



ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Four Seasons Toronto is organizing the global expedition. TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LIFESTYLES

Global culinary tour for the 1 per cent

Most travellers have a limited budget for food, hotels and souvenirs and will do their best to stick with it. And then there are those with the deepest of deep pockets.

It's clearly the latter that Toronto-based Four Seasons has in mind with its latest extravagant offering: a 19-day culinary-themed jaunt across Asia and Europe with opportunities to nosh in Michelin-starred restaurants, discover street food and go on chef-led market tours.

Price tag: \$135,000 US per

person. That's double occupancy. If you're hoofing it on your own you'll have to cough up the \$12,000 single supplement.

Destinations on the itinerary include Seoul (the starting point), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Chiang Mai, Mumbai, Florence, Lisbon, Copenhagen and Paris.

An elephant trek in northern Thailand, a private viewing of Michelangelo's David in Florence and a foraging experience in Denmark are also part of the package.

\$135,000

Cost in USD, per person (add another \$12,000 for single occupancy). To book your spot on a 19-day worldwide tour for foodies organized by Four Seasons Toronto.

Mingling with the commoners in the skies is not an issue. Air travel is aboard the Four Seasons private jet and accommodations are at the chain's luxurious hotels and resorts.

Four Seasons, which partnered with Copenhagen restaurant Noma and co-

owner René Redzepi to develop the May 27 to June 14 trip, says it is also tossing in a special gift: complimentary business-class airfare from each guest's home city to Seoul and back from Paris, up to

\$5,000 US per person.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRAVEL NOTES FROM HAWAII TO DISNEY AND THE GRAMMY MUSEUM

Hot spot: Hawaii

State economists are forecasting the number of visitors to Hawaii will rise 1.5 per cent this year.

The state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism said about 9.1 million travellers are expected to visit.

Construction, tourism and health care fueled job gains, helping drive the unemployment rate down to 2.9 per cent in December. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Hawaii ready for sixth straight year of record tourism. ISTOCK

Star Wars-themed parks break ground

Disney CEO Bob Iger says the company will open its Star Wars-themed lands at California's Disneyland and Florida's Walt Disney World in 2019.

The 14-acre attractions are under construction at the parks. Disney says the lands will include attractions and entertainment alongside aliens and droids. The attractions represent the parks' largest single themed land expansion ever.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Bob Chapek, chairman of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. AP

Grammy Museum coming to East Coast

The Grammy Museum is planning a location in New Jersey.

Officials announced plans for the 8,000-square-foot Grammy Museum Experience at the Prudential Center arena. The Newark museum will include a section devoted to New Jersey artists including Whitney Houston, Frank Sinatra and Bruce Springsteen, along with an area that will simulate performing live onstage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Whitney Houston. GETTY IMAGES

#RODIN100

Philly sees passion through Rodin's eyes

Auguste Rodin's sensuous piece *The Kiss* will form the core of an installation at Philadelphia's Rodin Museum centred on the theme of passion to mark the 100th anniversary of the French sculptor's death.

The Kiss, in marble, portrays a couple forever locked in an amorous embrace. The new installation's marble, bronze and plaster casts feature pairings including men and women, mothers and children, a woman clutching a dead lover — and others that are playful, animalistic and one considered too shocking for even Rodin to exhibit during his lifetime. He died in November 1917.

"He explores the idea of a couple... through desire, attraction, repulsion and shame," said curator Jennifer Thompson. "This is what passion looks like at the hands of Rodin."

The installation is part of a yearlong series of celebrations looking at the groundbreaking artist's life being held at a host of art museums around the world, with the Musée Rodin in Paris at the centre.

The public programs and exhibitions — unified under #Rodin100 — are bringing together new information about the man considered the father of modern sculpture.

Among the Philadelphia installation's 16 works is the plaster *Young Mother in the Grotto*, an ode to maternal love featuring a young woman and chubby baby; and *The Minotaur*, which depicts the mythological creature with a human face, said to be a self-portrait, groping and leering.

A copy of Rodin's *The Kiss* at the Rodin Museum in Philadelphia.



MATT ROURKE/AP

It will be on view until 2019.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Exhibition charts 500 years of robotic evolution

TECHNOLOGY

London museum finds humanity in artificial forms

Inspired by his belief that human beings are essentially terrified of robots, Ben Russell set about charting the evolution of automatons for an exhibition he hopes will force people to think about how androids and other robotic forms can enhance their lives.

Robots, says Russell, have been with us for centuries — as Robots, his exhibit opening Wednesday at London's Science Museum, shows.

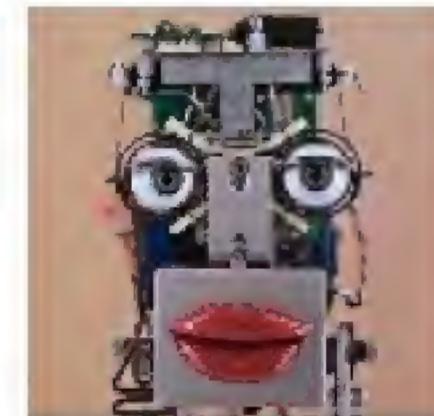
From a 15th century Spanish clockwork monk who kisses his rosary and beats his breast in contrition, to a Japanese "child-droid" newsreader, created in 2014 with lifelike facial expressions, the exhibition tracks the development of robotics and mankind's obsession with replicating itself.

Arnold Schwarzenegger's unstoppable Terminator cyborg is there, as is Robby the Robot, star of the 1956 film *Forbidden Planet*, representing the horror and the fantasy of robots with minds of their own.

There are also examples of factory production-line machines blamed for taking

people's jobs in recent decades; a "telenoid communications android" for hugging during long-distance phone calls to ease loneliness; and Kaspar, a "minimally expressive social robot" built like a small boy and designed to help ease social interactions for children with autism.

"When you take a long view, as we have done with

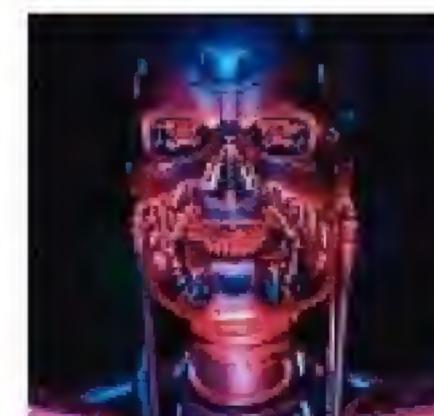


500 years of robots, robots haven't been these terrifying things, they've been magical, fascinating, useful, and they generally tend to do what we want them to do," said Russell, who works at the science museum and was the lead curator of the exhibition.

And while it's human nature to be worried in the face of change, Russell said, the exhibit should help people "think about what we are as humans" and realize that if robots are "going to come along, you've got a stake in how they develop."

A total of 100 robots are set in five different historic periods in a show that explores how religion, industrialization, pop culture and visions of the future have shaped society.

For Rich Walker, managing director of Shadow Robot Company in London, robotics is about what these increasingly sophisticated machines can do for humans to make life easier, particularly for the elderly or



the impaired.

"I'm naturally lazy and got involved so that I could get robots to do things for me," Walker said. His company has developed a robotic hand that can replicate 24 of the 27 natural movements of the human hand.

As humans have a 1 per cent failure rate at repetitive tasks, committing errors about once every two hours, the hand could replace humans on production lines, he said.

Walker concedes further erosion of certain types of jobs if

inventions such as his are successful, but says having repetitive tasks performed by automatons would free up people to adopt value-added roles.

"The issue is to rebuild the economy so that it has a holistic approach to employment," he said.

This in turn leads to questions, raised at the exhibition as well as by the European Union, of whether or not robots should pay taxes on the value of their output as part of the new industrial revolution.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metr^o SPORTS

Bucks breakout forward Jabari Parker suffered a season-ending left knee injury for the second time in three years, the team said Thursday

NHL

Leafs fall to Blues in OT

Vladimir Tarasenko scored the overtime winner as the St. Louis Blues kept rolling under new head coach Mike Yeo, beating the Toronto Maple Leafs 2-1.

Tarasenko snapped his 26th goal of the year past Frederik Andersen 20 seconds into the extra frame as St. Louis improved to 4-1-0 under Yeo, who replaced Ken Hitchcock as the Blues' coach last week.

THURSDAY In Toronto

2
BLUES **1**
LEAFS

Morgan Rielly scored the lone goal for Toronto (25-17-11) and Andersen was sharp with 38 saves in defeat.

It was the second time in a week that St. Louis (28-22-5) beat Toronto, the Blues emerging 5-1 last week at home.

St. Louis, which sits third in the Central division with 61 points, got its other goal from Patrik Berglund in the first period. Jake Allen made 31 saves. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Maple Leafs goalie Frederik Andersen makes one of his 38 saves on Thursday.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Fatima Al Ali of the United Arab Emirates was invited to meet Alex Ovechkin and the Washington Capitals on Wednesday in Arlington, Va. JOHN McDONNELL/THE WASHINGTON POST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UAE player lives dream with Caps

HOCKEY

Al Ali flown to U.S. as part of inclusive NHL initiative

When Fatima Al Ali first started playing hockey in the United Arab Emirates, she skated with young children half her size.

"They were looking up at me like, 'What is she doing here?'" she said.

On Wednesday, she was halfway around the world skating with the NHL's Washington Capitals, and they knew exactly what she was doing there. Capitals great Peter Bondra was impressed by Al Ali's advanced stickhandling moves during a visit to Abu Dhabi, and the team flew her to the United States to meet her favorite player, Alex

Ovechkin, during the league's Hockey is for Everyone month.

The 27-year-old Al Ali only began playing hockey six years ago after falling in love with the sport as the official photographer for the men's national team, and now she's among the best players on the women's team in the United Arab Emirates. According to the International Ice Hockey Federation, the UAE has only 82 adult women's players among its 802 skaters and just nine rinks in the country of almost six million where the average winter temperature is about 26 C.

She's going to be a real role model, and I think it's a good symbol.
Capitals coach Barry Trotz
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Hockey is getting more and more popular, and Fatima is one of the key factors to this success," said Rasti Pavlikovsky, who runs the hockey camp where Bondra saw Al Ali in November. "She loves the sport, she is at the rink every day, not just skating and training, but also helping out to run the practices and games, she is also a great referee at international level."

In a foreign land, she found some comfort on the ice with the Capitals. As cameras from about a dozen media outlets documented her every stride, Al Ali talked about herself, the sport in the Middle East and stick curves and different moves.

"I was so nervous going on the ice, but once we started talking it just calmed down," she said. "We're just talking about hockey, something we all share and something we all love."

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2018 WINTER OLYMPICS

Canada forecast to win 29 medals

An analytics company predicts a big Winter Olympics for Norway and says Canada will finish fourth in total medals won next year in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

The U.S.-based sports and entertainment data company Gracenote has Norway topping its virtual medal table with a whopping 40 medals, including 15 gold, which would both be a Winter Games records.

The current highs are Canada's 14 gold and the 37 medals won by the United States in 2010 in Vancouver and Whistler, B.C.

Canada is projected to collect 29 medals — nine gold, nine silver and 11 bronze — behind Germany with 34 and the U.S. at 32 in Pyeongchang.

France is pegged to post its best performance, tying the U.S. for gold with 10 and Russia at

240

The COC expects to send a team of approximately 240 athletes to Pyeongchang.

22 medals. The 2018 Winter Olympics open Feb. 9 and close 16 days later.

With a year to go, The Canadian Press forecasts 28 medals for the Canadian team (eight gold, 10 silver, 10 bronze).

Those who run Canadian sport are waiting until after world championships conclude to declare the country's goal for Pyeongchang.

Finishing first in total medals won was the target in both 2010 and 2014, when Canada won 26 medals for third and 25 for fourth, respectively.

Canada ranks third among countries in gold medals (31) and total medals (116) so far this winter sport World Cup season behind Germany (64, 163) and the United States (45, 126).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Eskimos lure Chambers back to Edmonton

Shamawd Chambers has returned to the Edmonton Eskimos.

The receiver signed with the Eskimos Thursday after being released by the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Chambers began his CFL career with Edmonton, registering 112 catches for 1,234 yards and seven TDs over four seasons.

The six-foot-three, 219-pound Chambers was named the top Canadian in Edmonton's Grey Cup win over Ottawa in 2015.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada caps perfect round robin in Fed Cup play

Canada defeated Paraguay

3-0 on Thursday to close out round-robin play at the Fed Cup Americas Zone Group I event with a 3-0 record.

Canada will face the winner of Pool B in Saturday's final with a berth in the World Group II playoffs in April on the line. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Riders coach denies working out Manziel

Saskatchewan Roughriders head coach Chris Jones has denied a report that the Saskatchewan Roughriders illegally worked out quarterback Johnny Manziel.

The former Heisman Trophy winner remains on the negotiation list of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, which gives them CFL exclusivity to him. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oakley standing pat on arena spat

NBA

Former Knick denies doing anything to force ejection

Charles Oakley maintains he did nothing wrong before he was surrounded by Madison Square Garden security officials.

Something has happened, though, to turn him from popular player to persona non grata within his former franchise.

Oakley Thursday blamed his strained relationship with the New York Knicks and owner James Dolan for the altercation that led to his ejection and arrest from the Knicks' 119-115 loss to the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday.

Oakley said during an ESPN Radio interview that he had been in his seat for just a few minutes when he was surrounded by security, denying that they approached him after

he shouted at Dolan.

"Now I'm four rows from this guy, so I'm going to walk in this place and just start hollering, 'James Dolan! James Dolan!' I mean, that's embarrassing, man. I did not do none of that," Oakley said. "I didn't know the man was sitting in front of me at first until they walked over there."

Oakley, who is also a former Toronto Raptor, said he has been told that Dolan must be informed by security whenever he is in the arena, and that MSG staff follows him when he leaves his seat to go the bathroom.

But the Knicks said he was causing trouble Wednesday even before security reached his seat.

"There are dozens of security staff, employees and NYPD that witnessed Oakley's abusive behaviour," a team statement read. "It started when he entered the building and continued until he was arrested and left the building. Every single statement we have received is consistent in describing his actions. Every-



I don't want to keep going to the Garden if all this is going to keep happening.

Charles Oakley

thing he said since the incident is pure fiction."

Oakley was charged with three counts of misdemeanor assault and one count of criminal trespass. He is accused of striking one security guard in the face with a closed fist, and when two other people tried to intervene, both were pushed and received cuts.

He is due back in court April 11. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Spieth one off lead at unwelcoming Pebble Beach

The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am showed its mean side Thursday in high wind, rain and still no shortage of entertainment.

Even moving the tee times up an hour to avoid storms didn't allow the opening round to finish before the greens held too much water to play. Seung-Yul Noh, Joel Dahmen and Rick Lamb each finished at Spyglass Hill at 4-under 68. One shot behind was Jordan Spieth.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Westbrook's triple double helps Thunder beat Cavs

Russell Westbrook scored 29 points and had his 26th triple-double of the season to help the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 118-109 on Thursday night.

Victor Oladipo scored 23 points and Steven Adams had 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Thunder, who now can focus on their showdown with Golden State Warriors on Saturday. Kyrie Irving scored 28 points, LeBron James had 18.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

eSPORTS

Joypads ready: NBA 2K League is coming

Video gamers now have a chance to compete for an NBA title, in an actual NBA arena and get paid by the some of the same people who pay LeBron James and Steph Curry. That's right, the NBA 2K eLeague is coming—the first esports league operated by one of the four major pro sports leagues in the United States.

The NBA and Take-Two interactive Software announced early Thursday morning that they are bringing some of the world's best gamers together to compete while representing actual NBA teams, a competition commissioner Adam Silver hopes will continue to expand his league's global brand.

"The large part of my mission is to grow the game of basketball," Silver told The Associated Press. "There's going to be an opportunity for this first of a kind league to attract a group of gamers who might be playing some other game. Now, they can say 'Maybe I couldn't play for the Knicks, because I didn't have the physical prowess to compete at that level. But I do have the mental and physical prowess to compete as an egamer for the eKnicks,'"

8-12

Number of NBA teams that will start in the NBA 2K League

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4	1	7	6	5	9	8	3	2
8	7	2	4	6	5	3	9	1
1	4	3	8	9	7	6	2	5
9	6	5	2	1	3	4	7	8
2	3	8	7	4	1	5	6	9
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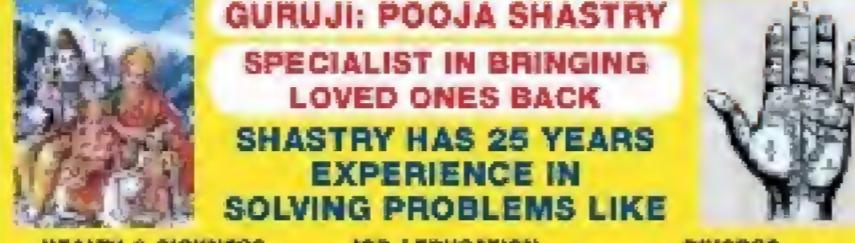
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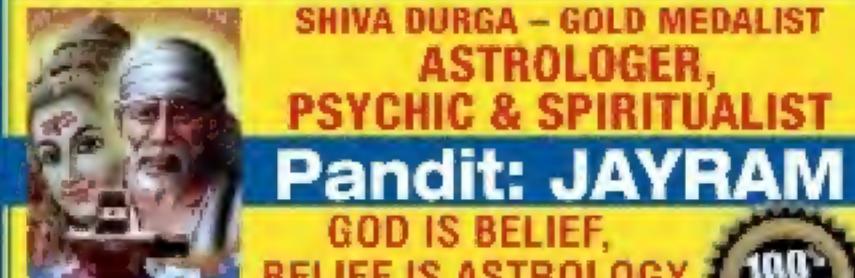
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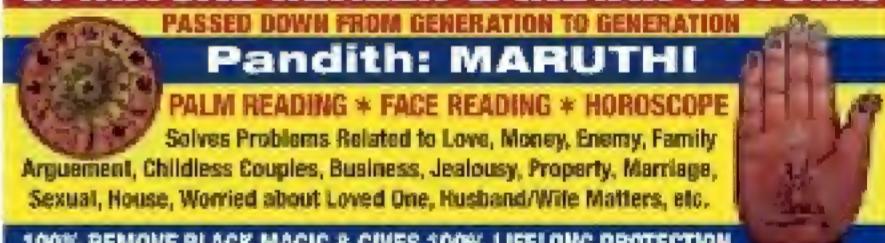
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- 2 large Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 leek, washed well, sliced in half and thinly sliced
- 2 5-oz tins salmon, drained
- 2 tbsp fresh dill, chopped fine
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise

Directions

1. Simmer potatoes until tender in boiling water. Drain and mash. It will make about 2 cups of mashed potatoes. Allow to cool slightly.
2. Gently combine salmon, potatoes, leeks and dill. Blend in mayonnaise and a pinch of salt and pepper.
3. Form into about 12 patties — about 2 1/2 inches across and maybe 1/2 inch thick and place on a plate. Cover and refrigerate for at least an hour.
4. Heat some vegetable oil until hot but not smoking. Fry the cakes — don't over crowd the pan, you'll have a hard time flipping them — for about five minutes a side.

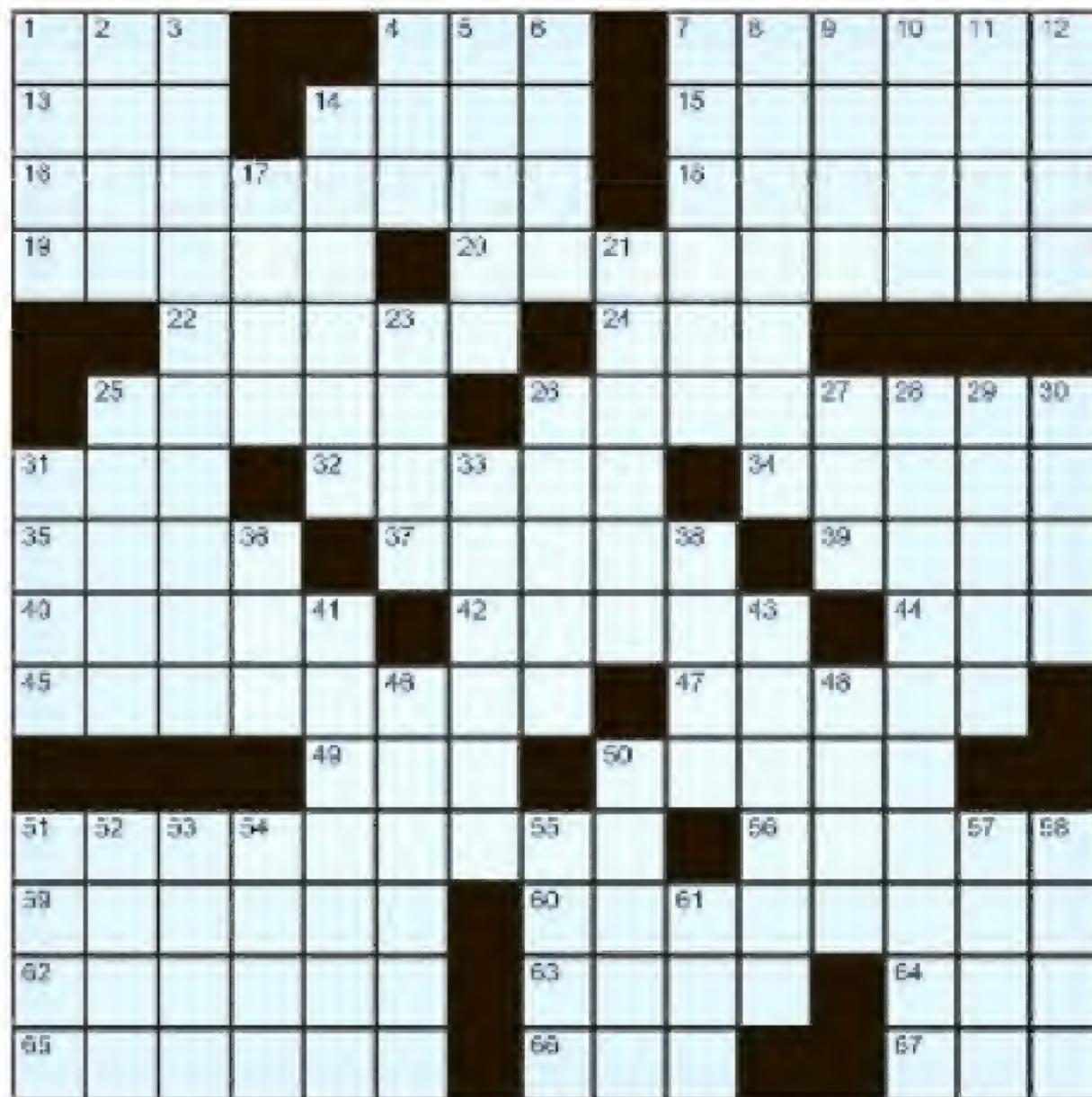
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ACROSS

1. Lit banned pollutant
4. In-the-lab letters in lunch
7. Sacred songs
13. Leftover of 'Liq' still in the tavern bottle?
14. Blot
15. Down-__ (Worn out)
16. Hockey defensive zone marker: 2 wds.
18. One of the icons in Madonna's "Vogue"
19. Manitoba town northeast of Winnipeg, ___ Bonnet
20. Stylish bit of footwear: 2 wds.
22. Poetically forever
24. "13 Madeline" (1947) starring James Cagney
25. He defeated Goliath
26. Country star Glen
31. Filmdom's Gretchen
32. Pacific island republic
34. Smooth transition
35. Jean Valjean portrayer Mr. Wilkinson
37. Hidden hoard
39. Britney Spears' sister, Jamie __
40. Sugar's pal in coffee
42. Remove the hem's stitches
44. 15th PM's monogram
45. Salad dressing ingredient ... en français
47. Whitewater rides
49. __ Tin Tin
50. "Howdy!"
51. Home team chant at an AOC hockey game! 3 wds.
52. Encrypted: 2 wds.
53. Street sort, shortly
54. Vancouver-born actor Mr. Bellows
55. Variantly gained knowledge
56. Particular pastel
57. Ontario folk festival where Joni Mitchell has famously played
58. Intelligencer/agency of Israel
59. Longtime manager: 2 wds.
60. Compass dir.
61. Tasty tuber type
62. Invented-in-Canada baby cereal
63. Street sort, shortly
64. Bryan Adams' longtime manager
65. Frank
66. Compass dir.
67. Tasty tuber type



DOWN

1. Periodical or magazine, e.g.
2. Pop
3. Bryan Adams' longtime manager: 2 wds.
4. F-J link
5. NB's Grand __ Island
6. Frank

7. Vintner's prefix
8. Resins in varnishes
9. Ancient Greece's love god
10. Pickup trucks, e.g.
11. Beatles: "Love __"
12. Schedule

13. Open the information loop: 2 wds.
17. 1999 Matthew McConaughey movie
21. Bluegrass singer Alison
23. Nutritional suggested amt.
25. "...see my red __ must have it painted black." - The Rolling Stones
26. Construction lifter
27. Barbara Geddes, "Dallas" actress
28. Study of King Tut, Pyramids, Hieroglyphics, etc.
29. Quebec City 'moons'
30. Loaned
31. Gladiator's 1205
33. On-the-road reversals
36. Goat's bleat
38. In this spot
41. Cynthia's "Sex and the City" character
43. For whom King Edward abdicated in 1936
46. Talented
48. Acrobat's feat
50. Mother Nature's wintertime 'coats'
51. Flicker of light, briefly
52. Vintner's prefix
53. Resins in varnishes
54. Ancient Greece's love god
55. Pickup trucks, e.g.
57. Minor
58. Tranquil
61. Food Network chef Ms. Drummond

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
The full moon today might create problems with kids or romantic partners. Be careful about going overboard or over-reacting to things. Keep it cool.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Today you feel pulled between the demands of home and family versus the demands of your job, career and public reputation. You can't please everyone.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Because of the full moon energy today, this is a mildly accident-prone day for your sign. Therefore, slow down and take it easy.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Something to do with shared property, taxes or debt might come to a head today due to the full moon energy. Go slowly in everything you do.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Today the only full moon all year in your sign is taking place. This can make relationships with partners and close friends too emotional and testy.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Difficulties at work or with co-workers might arise today because of the full moon. Just be calm, tolerant and easygoing with everyone.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Social events, romantic relationships, playful activities with children and sports events are all subject to the explosive full moon energy today. Don't get carried away.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Do what you can to keep the peace at home, because today's full moon might stir up things within the family or where you live. Avoid arguments with authority figures, especially Mom.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is a mildly accident-prone day for you because of the full moon. Take time to notice everything around you.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Today's full moon can affect your finances in some way. Therefore, double-check everything you do. Don't give the farm away.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today the only full moon opposite your sign all year is taking place. This will put some stress on your relationships with partners and close friends, which means you have to be tolerant and patient.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Difficulties with co-workers might arise today because of the full moon. This is mild and temporary. Just go with the flow.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

2	3	1	5	
5	9	8	1	
8	4			2 7
9	7			4 6

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